

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 6 as follows:

FIG. 7 shows a guide wire that is provided with a guiding aid of the invention. The flexible, shapeable shaft 2 of the guiding aid is constituted by the distal portion of the core wire of the guide wire, which, for coronary applications, has an outer diameter of typically about 0.35 mm. A first bent section 4 has a first curvature K_1 , and proximal thereto a second bent section 6 has a second curvature K_2 , with the two bent sections 4 and 6 being bent in the same direction with respect to the axis 12 of the instrument, i.e. with the same sign of curvature, and which are positioned substantially in the same plane E, which in FIG. 7 is the drawing plane. Between the bent sections 4 and 6 shaft 2 comprises a straight intermediate section 8 having a length of approximately 3 mm, and distal to the first bent section 4 shaft 2 comprises a straight end section 10 with a length of approximately 1.5 mm. The straight intermediate section 8 and the axis 12 of the instrument include a first obtuse angle α_1 , and the straight intermediate section 8 and the straight end section 10 include a second obtuse angle α_2 , with both obtuse angles having a value of about 135° . The bent sections 4 and 6 are formed substantially in the shape of a circular arc, with the radius of curvature of the first bent section 4 being about 3 mm and the radius of curvature of the second bent section 6 being about 8 mm. Shaft 2 is tapered ~~towards~~ toward its distal end 14 via a plurality of conical intermediate sections. In order to provide for a substantially constant outer diameter of the guide wire, a helical spring 16 is wound at least partially around shaft 2, preferably within the tapered shaft portion which within the region of the distal end 14 of the shaft 2 is made of a radiopaque material 20 which is threadedly connected to the proximal spring 16 at an attachment side 22 and/or is brazed or welded thereto. At the distal end 14 of the shaft 2 spring 20 is provided with a rounded terminal element 18, for example a solidified droplet of brazing metal. Spring 16 is attached to shaft 2 at its proximal end and preferably also at an additional location, for example by means of brazing or solder or adhesive connection. The core wire of the guide wire and thus shaft 2 preferably are made of Nitinol.